GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3093
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2001
FREE PORTS
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether free ports have been set up in some States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special features of these ports;

(c) whether these free ports are on the lines of Singapore free port;

(d) if so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are further considering to set up a free Trade Zone and a free port with world class infrastructure; and

(f) if so, the ports which have been chosen for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a): No, Sir.

(b) to (c): Do not arise.

(d) to (f): Free Trade Zones and Special Economic Zones are synonymous terms. In the Export & Import Policy (1997-2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31.3.2000, the Government has announced a policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country. There is no proposal to set up any new EPZ/SEZ by the Central GovernmentHowever, EPZs/SEZs may be set up in the private, joint sector or by the State Governments. Accordingly the Government has granted in principle approval for setting up of Special Economic Zones at Positra (Gujarat) in the private sector and by the State Governments at Dronagiri (Maharashtra), Nanguneri (Tamil Nadu), Kulpi (West Bengal), Paradeep (Orissa), Bhadohi and Kanpur (U.P.), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments. These Zones are expected to come up in due course. No free ports are proposed to be set up.